

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

December 14, McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Dave Rollo, Dave Parkhurst, George Huntington, Maggie Sullivan, Amanda Figolah, Andy Davis, Bill Brown, Melissa Clark, Michael Beszkiewicz, Toby Strout. Amy Countryman joined late.

Regrets: Ted Mendoza, Heidi Russell Wagner, Cynthia Schultz

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Two members of the public were present. Emmett Clark. Eric Ost indicated he is interested in working with energy conservation and local issues. He has a history of working with technology, computers, and construction, so would be interested in contributing to the Commission's efforts wherever needed.

Announcements:

Bill's class presentations will be on Business room 209 on December 2 at 8am. The closing ceremony for Themester will be the following day.

Andy noted that the City has posted the job of Market Coordinator for the farmers market. He urged people to pass this information along.

Dave shared a slide from a recent Paris conference, presented by EIA, showing significant inadequacy of oil reserves in coming decades. This information is reflected in recent reports by the German military and the US Dept of Defense.

Jacqui gave an update on the Beat the Meter Blitz—HAND received 190 requests and appointments are being arranged.

Approval of the minutes: The minutes from the October 2010 meeting were approved.

Water bill recommendation:

Jacqui noted that CBU wants to make sure that any recommendation that BCOS passes doesn't "tie their hands". She also noted that she included the e-billing recommendation in addition to the general bill formatting recommendations.

Dave P. motioned to approve the recommendation and it was seconded by Toby. Andy asked to modify the recommendation to indicate that the long-term goal should be to present usage in single-gallons rather than just "smaller increments."

The motion passed unanimously.

Dave R. asked that the recommendation also be copied to the Utilities Service Board, Pat Murphy, the Mayor, and the City Council. Dave R. asked if we might also send to the Herald Times—specifically to Bob Zaltsberg and Dawn Hewitt.

Jacqui will draft a short cover letter to accompany the recommendation.

Update on STAR data collection:

No further changes were proposed. Andy may still try to update the transportation section, but the Commission will plan to approve the report at the next meeting. The report will then be presented to the City Council.

Michael noted that he met with one of Bill's students to share the data SIREN has on renewable energy installations in the county.

Committee Reports:

Food: Food committee had a meeting about starting a food security council. There will be an open call-out meeting for anyone interested in participating on December 7 at 5:30pm at MCPL. Michael Simmons will present on the types of food policy councils that exist elsewhere.

Maggie also noted that a group is working to establish a farm school to train local farmers. The group is planning to apply for a USDA grant—the deadline was moved to this December so they will likely plan to apply for the next grant round instead. George has a draft of the proposal that he will share with the group if anyone is interested.

Water: Melissa has been surveying neighborhoods about the “500 rainbarrels, 500 gardens” type of campaign and has been seeing a lot of interest.

Energy: Jacqui described a plan to form an “energy SWAT team” to install CFLs and weatherstripping for MLK Day. George mentioned that he has some CFLs left from the “Change a Light” initiative a few years ago. Dave R. indicated that the embodied energy of manufacturing CFLs does not in fact outweigh the energy saved, as some people have asserted.

Communications: The Green Network News website (www.gnnbloomington.com) is up and running and they are looking for input and commentary.

New Business

Dave P. would like BCOS to send a recommendation letter to the Deer Task Force encouraging them to find ways to reduce the urban deer population and change city ordinances to allow fences greater than 8 feet. After some discussion Dave P. agreed to modify the language and to bring it back for consideration next month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.